- 8000 vancancies in Railway Protection force are being filled on priority.
- Modern security gadgets are being procured on priority.
- Close Circuit Televisions and Cameras are being installed at sensitive/important Railway Stations.
- Skills of Railway Protection Force personnel are being upgraded by imparting training.
- Regular Exchange of intelligence between Railway Protection Force and State Police/Central and State Intelligence Units and Government Railway Police is being ensured

(c) The position in the sections, trains and stations affected by crime is periodically reviewed in the co-ordination meetings held by the officers of the Railway Protection Force with their counter parts of the Government Railway Police and the State Police. In these Meetings, the situation is reviewed and remedial measures are taken. The deployment of staff is modified from time to time depending upon the situation. Whenever there is any escalation in violent incidents in any section, all-out efforts are made in co-ordination with the State Police to control the situation by actively assisting them with additional man power and other resources. As for the accountability, Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel found slack in the discharge of their duties are promptly taken up under Disciplinary proceeding and appropriate Laws.

**Improving agriculture**

*273. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has called for enhancing the outlays for agriculture in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, so that, State Governments are provided adequate funds, Strengthen infrastructure and help capital formation and investment in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether State Agriculture Ministers' conference was held on

22nd December, 2006 in Delhi to discuss recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers which submitted its final report to Government in October, 2006;

(c) if so, what was the outcome of the conference held; and

(d) what are the steps being taken to improve agriculture in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes sir, It is considered essential that the Central and State Plan outlays for agriculture are enhanced to strengthen infrastructure and help capital formation in this sector to achieve higher growth.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Conference of State Minister for Agriculture and Allied Sectors was held on 22nd December, 2006 to discuss and obtain their views on the recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) in its Reports including Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers. The States are broadly in agreement with most of the recommendations. The Government has taken necessary action to expedite examination of the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers and other recommendations. While examining the Reports as well as Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers, it was observed that several initiatives and programmes/schemes launched are already in the line with many of the recommendations of NCF.

Several recommendations/suggestions have been made by the Working Groups set up by the Planning Commission for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Working Groups of the NDC Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Related issues and National Commission on Farmers. For the first year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a number of steps have already been announced in the Budget 2007-08 for improvement of the agriculture sector. These, inter alia, relate to enhancement of farm credit; launching of mission for pulses; implementation pf new rainfed area development programmes; restoring of water bodies; training of farmers; strengthening of agricultural extension system; launching of pilot programme for efficient delivery of fertilizer subsidy directly to farmers; and introduction of weather based crop insurance scheme on a pilot basis.